

from the Government and leading men in the country that conscription would not be resorted to. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has proposed that this question should be referred to the people by means of a referendum, thus eliminating from the issue the party questions and any personality of leaders. A number of Liberals seem to have been stampeded. I do not wish to go beneath the surface as to their motives but I cannot understand the Liberalism of a man *who says that he believes conscription would be defeated in referendum, but who still intends to vote to make it law.* This is contrary to my fundamental belief in Liberalism, and in representative institutions. I do not mean to say that members of the Liberal party who are going to vote against the referendum will necessarily be defeated in their respective seats, but I do say emphatically that in the Province of Ontario the feeling that is against conscription is not represented in the House and has no means of making itself felt or of voicing its opinion, and this opinion is widespread. Great newspapers in a centre like Toronto are in favor of conscription and are going so far as to largely ignore any arguments against it. I have means of coming into fairly good touch with a large part of rural Ontario, and I have no hesitation in saying that a large proportion, if not a majority, of the

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